

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Simmons:** The Fraser River in British Columbia, as the minister will know, is home to the largest salmon run in the world. I noticed with pleasure that the minister has plans to double the fish population in that river over time. That, itself, is a commendable goal.

Will the minister make a similar commitment to work towards the doubling of Atlantic groundfish stocks over the same timeframe?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, by the way, I remember some predictions in May of 1987 about the November 21 election of 1988. Again, I saw the results.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Valcourt:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member would probably invite me to make a statement that I, this government, or the scientists, can double the fishery in Atlantic Canada.

Unfortunately, I am not a Liberal. I do not work miracles. We have to keep working hard with the fishermen and scientists to try to do what is possible. What is possible is to sustain the fishery. That is part of the green plan, to sustain the fishery in Atlantic Canada. With participation, we can all do this together.

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• (1440)

### CANADA'S GREEN PLAN

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

I am sure he is aware that the corks are popping in the boardrooms all over the country. This is a government that is standing by, without having an environmental assessment of any of the major megaprojects coming forward in this country. The green plan was supposed to be \$5 billion with tough new anti-pollution laws. Unfortunately, it shrank and it has been deformed into a unsecured \$3 billion political slush fund.

Will the minister explain the \$2 billion that has been cut from the plan, and why the government has opted for voluntary compliance and self-regulation of polluters when that mindset is precisely what has brought about the decline and destruction of Canada's environment.

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to explain the disappearance of something that was never there.

We have a \$3 billion, five-year action plan. This is a plan to support other initiatives that this government has taken on the environment, such as Bill C-78, one that my hon. colleague has not been too swift to approve in this House or in committee.

This is a bill that will be very helpful in terms of environmental assessment. It comes on the back of a record that would be enviable for any industrialized nation in this world in the matter of environment.

[Translation]

**Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. It seems that for over three years now, the *Union des municipalités* has been requesting \$5 billion in order to improve municipal infrastructures, namely sewers and water systems. We don't see in the Green Plan any reference to that. Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us, first, how much money will be used to improve municipal infrastructures? Second, will he give us a schedule showing when this money will be provided to municipalities? Is the Green Plan only an empty plan?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the Green Plan does address questions like the ones my friend raised. I believe he should know that municipalities are creatures of the provincial governments from a jurisdictional point of view and a constitutional point of view. This question has been raised many times and our government has frequently answered requests from municipalities.

[English]

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, this government's green plan is nothing but a garbage heap of reused and recycled propaganda with reduced commitment to the environment.

As an example, this government's drinking water safety act does not apply to a single drop of drinking water flowing into Canadian homes and communities. The standard only applies to federally-controlled water sources. It does not apply to water treatment in 99 per cent of the communities across the country.